

Colonial Update

64 Holden Street • Shrewsbury, MA 01545

October 2005



Mission Statement:

The Shrewsbury High School community provides challenging, diverse learning opportunities; promotes creativity and independent thinking; and empowers students to become capable, caring, active contributors to the world in which they live.

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Parent Forum News

Important Dates for your Calendar

Notes from the Shrewsbury Schools Music Association (SSMA)

Offerings from the Shrewsbury Alumni Association

Deadline for the next issue of Colonial Update is November 30, 2005

for submissions, send email to khutt@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Challenges in a New Year

The new school year has gotten off to a superb start. While we have more students assigned to study halls due to an increase in our enrollment and the loss of many co-curricular and elective programs, most class sizes are reasonable and the students are working hard. I am very impressed with our students' demeanor and their sense of purpose as we begin a new year.

We held our first School Meeting on September 2nd in the fieldhouse with all students and staff. We gathered as one school community and I posed the following three questions to our students:

- What will you do to increase your learning?
- What will you do to improve our school?
- What can we do to change our world?

We discussed the need to consider new opportunities for personal growth and direction. We discussed the critical need for students to provide leadership and demonstrate enthusiasm and spirit in a large and diverse high school. And at the conclusion of our School Meeting, several student leaders also challenged the entire school community to look for ways to support a world in need, particularly those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Parents should know that during the meeting our students, your sons and daughters, were attentive, enthused, and eager to get to work. We are all very proud of them and hope the new 2005-06 school year offers them every opportunity to succeed and pursue their own answer to each question.

Parents' Night October 6th

All parents are encouraged to attend the annual Parents' Night scheduled for October 6, 2005 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Parents' Night provides an opportunity for you to attend a mini-schedule of your child's classes and meet each of your son or daughter's teachers. Teachers will share expectations for student learning and a brief course overview in each class. The program will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. in the student's first period class. Parents can pick up the student schedule in the high school's main entrance.

It is important that parents come early for this program. As you know, parking is very difficult. In order for parents to arrive on time for the first class, you need to arrive no later than 6:45 p.m. This will allow you sufficient time to park, access the building, pick up your child's schedule, and walk up to the first period class.

As always, please contact me with your comments, ideas, and suggestions at 841-8808 or dgutekanst@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gutekanst, Ed.D.

Parent Forum News

From the Parent Forum Coordinators

Volunteers:

We encourage every parent to remain involved with the high school through Parent Forum activities as well as volunteering in the school. If you want to volunteer, please contact one of the following Parent Forum coordinators:

Nancy Donahue @508-842-4557
Lisa Easson @ 508-842-7133
Penny McClaren @ 508-842-0143

Upcoming Opportunities:

Some of the Parent forum volunteer opportunities that will soon be available are baking for the "Holiday Treats" we provide for the teachers each Wednesday in December and Colonial Update newsletter collators.

Forum Meetings:

Everyone is welcome to attend Parent Forum meetings usually held in the commons. These meetings are part open forum and part information and/or discussion sessions. Current topics include a college planning night, a discussion on drugs and alcohol, and an information session on internet and cell phone usage. What issues concern you? Let us know.

To Parents... ..From Parents: A Resource Guide for the Four Years of High School

Available for a donation of \$5.00

This handbook contains invaluable information on the workings of Shrewsbury High School including a year by year profile, information on academic and athletic services (with directions to away fields) as well as driving policies and volunteer opportunities plus much more. Available in the school main office.

Forum Meeting Dates:

Meetings start at 7:00pm

Thursday, Nov.3,2005
Thrsday, Jan. 12,2006
Thursday, March 9,2006
Thursday, April 11,2006

Principal Coffees:

For those of you not able to make the evening meetings, there are the principal coffees from 7:45am to 8:45am. Drop in any time.

Wednesday	September 28
Wednesday	October 19
Thursday	November 17
Wednesday	December 14
Friday	January 20
Wednesday	February 15
Wednesday	March 22
Thursday	April 13
Friday	May 1

Remember to stay involved and volunteer. Your partici- pation truly strengthens SHS.

Thank you to all of the parents who baked for the Open House and thank you also to the parents who helped with the "Back to School" teacher barbecue. We are interested in hearing your ideas, concerns, and comments. Thank you for your continued support.

Warmly,

Nancy Donahue	508-842-4557
Lisa Easson	508-842-7133
Joanne Hubbard	508-842-4895
Genevieve	
Labbe-Jolbert	508-842-5861
Penny McClaren	508-842-0143
Laurie Neumann	508-842-7718
Deborah Peeples	508-842-8693
Regina Rialtos	508-842-7818
Kathleen Thompson	508-842-1827
Marianne Upton	508-842-4175

SHS Community

Upcoming Dates

Sat, Oct 1	Homecoming Dance	7:00pm-11:00pm
Sun, Oct 3	Car Wash-a-thon (rain date)	9:00am-3:00pm
Tue, Oct 4	Rosh Hashanah/ no school	
Thu, Oct 6	Curriculum Night for parents	7:00pm-9:00pm
Sat, Oct 8	SAT testing	8:00am-1:00pm
Mon, Oct 10	Columbus Day/no school	
Thu, Oct 13	Yom Kippur/ no school	
Sat, Oct 15	PSAT testing	8:00am-1:00pm
Tue, Oct 18	Junior Class Ring Night	5:30pm-8:00pm
Mon, Oct 24	Dream Team Thanksgiving Food Drive	
Wed, Oct 26	Fall concert	7:30pm
Wed, Nov 2	Parent Conferences/ no school	
Sat, Nov 5	Variety Show	7:00pm
Fri, Nov 11	Veteran's Day/ no school	
Thu, Nov 17	Fall play for senior citizens	7:00pm
Fri, Nov 18	Fall Play	7:00pm
Sat, Nov 19	Fall Play	7:00pm
Sun, Nov 20	Fall Play	2:00pm
	Robotics Pie & Dessert Auction	2:00pm-7:00pm
Wed, Nov 23	Professional Development Day/ no school	
Thu, Nov 24	Thanksgiving Vacation	
Fri, Nov 25	Thanksgiving Vacation	

Military Recruitment

(From the "No Child Left Behind" Act)

NCLB (Title IX, Part E, Subpart 2, Section 9528) states that school districts are to allow the same access to students by military recruiters as they do college and job recruiters. This access includes releasing secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters, who can use the information for armed services recruiting and for informing these students of scholarship opportunities. However, secondary school students or their parents can request that the information not be released, and local school districts are required to notify parents of this option.

Please contact the guidance office for more information @ 508-841-8813.